

REMARKS

Applicants have added claims 22 and 23 in the above-captioned application. No new matter has been added. Claims 9 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-7, 10-16 and 20-23 are pending.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 10 and 16 as being assertedly indefinite. Applicants have followed the Examiner's suggestion and deleted the word "minimum" from Claims 1, 10 and 16. Applicants believe that Claims 1, 10 and 16, as amended, are in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration.

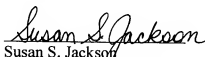
The Office Action also indicated that if Claim 1 and 2 were found to be allowable, then Claim 19 would be objected to as being a substantial duplicate thereof. Since Applicants have amended Claim 1 to be in condition for allowance, Applicants also followed the Examiner's suggestion regarding Claims 19 and 20. Applicants have canceled Claim 19 and have made Claim 20 dependent from Claim 2.

The Office Action indicated that Claims 2-7, 11-15, 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the above, Applicants believe that all amended independent claims and claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration.

Applicants have added new Claims 22 and 23. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added and that the new claims are patentable over references previously cited by the Examiner. In particular, none of the cited references teach or suggest an ink formulation wherein the weight percentage of pigment is equal to that of polypropylene glycol, much less one where the weight percentage of pigment is less than that of polypropylene glycol.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan S. Jackson
Registration No. 41,302
Kennedy Covington Lobdell
& Hickman, L.L.P.
Hearst Tower, 47th Floor
214 N. Tryon Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
Telephone (704) 331-7410
-- Attorney for Applicants